

# Superior Court Judge

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## Una S. Gandbhir, Third Judicial District



**SPECIAL INTERESTS:**

Hiking, rock climbing, travel, reading, time with my family and our pets

**OTHER:**

I grew up in an extended Indian family outside of Boston. After completing law school in 1993 I moved to Anchorage where I practiced in the areas of estate planning, probate, disability and elder law until joining the court system as a Magistrate Judge in 2013. I was appointed to the Anchorage Superior Court on July 20th, 2018. I am married and have a young adult son.

**STATEMENT:**

It is a privilege and an honor to serve the State of Alaska as a trial judge. I believe that every Alaskan seeking justice has the right to be heard by a fair, impartial judge who understands the law and rules that impact their case. Every day, I strive to be patient, kind, thoughtful, respectful, fair, and diligent in addressing the variety of matters that come before me. I especially appreciate learning from the people who appear in my courtroom, and I am consistently impressed with the citizens who serve as jurors in support of their fellow Alaskans.

In addition to my caseload, I serve on several committees focused on improving the experience of all people who interact with the court. This may involve learning about how trauma impacts our urban and rural communities, making forms easier to understand, speaking to new citizens about access to the courts, and engaging with students interested in the legal system. All of these activities help to make our courts better places to serve the public.

This is my first retention election. I'm deeply grateful to be able to live and work in this wonderful, unique state. If you vote to retain me, I will continue to uphold the high standards that all Alaskans expect and deserve from their judicial officers.

**MAILING ADDRESS:** 825 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Anchorage, AK 99501

**AGE:** 56

**PLACE OF BIRTH:** Worcester, MA

**SPOUSE'S NAME:** Phil

**CHILDREN'S NAMES:** Kiran

**LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN ALASKA:** 29 years

**ALASKAN COMMUNITIES LIVED IN:**  
Anchorage 1993 - present

**EDUCATION:**  
Newton South High School, Newton, MA - 1984  
Bryn Mawr College, Bryn Mawr, PA - B.A. 1988  
Northeastern University School of Law, Boston, MA - J.D. 1993

**POLITICAL AND GOVERNMENT POSITIONS:**  
Magistrate Judge June 2013 - July 2018

**BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS:**  
Attorney (self-employed) - March 1998 - May 2013  
Associate Attorney, Law Office of Richard S. Thwaites  
- June 1994 - February 1998

**SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS MEMBERSHIPS:**  
Alaska Bar Association  
National Association of Women Judges

*The views expressed in this statement are from the candidate and not endorsed by the Division of Elections.  
The text of this statement was provided and paid for by the candidate in accordance with AS 15.58.030 and 6 AAC 25.690.*

# Alaska Judicial Council Evaluation

## *Judge Una Sonia Gandbhir, Anchorage Superior Court*

The Alaska Judicial Council finds Judge Gandbhir met or exceeded performance standards, and recommends a **“YES”** vote for another term in office

Judge Gandbhir was appointed to the Anchorage Superior Court in July of 2018. Judge Gandbhir handles a civil caseload. This is her first retention evaluation.

**Summary:** After conducting its performance review, the Judicial Council determined that Judge Gandbhir met or exceeded performance standards on all criteria, including legal ability, integrity, impartiality/fairness, temperament, diligence, and administrative skills. The Council further concluded that Judge Gandbhir complied with judicial ethics standards.

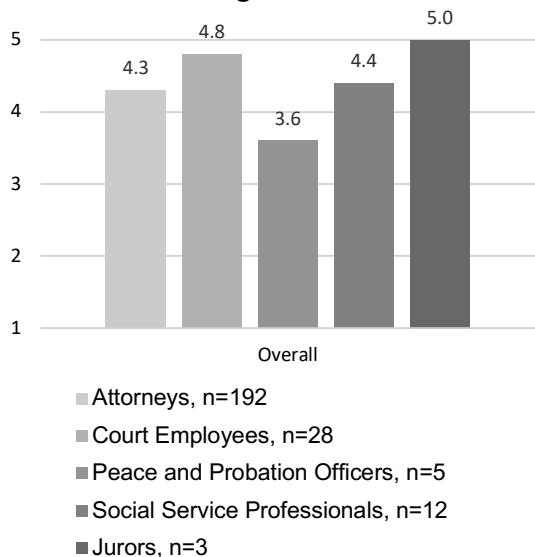
The Alaska Judicial Council therefore **recommends a “yes” vote** to retain Judge Gandbhir in office.

**Survey ratings:** Attorneys and social services professionals who appeared before Judge Gandbhir gave her excellent reviews, as did court employees. Five peace and probation officers who appeared before her gave her very good reviews. Jurors rated Judge Gandbhir 5.0 overall on a five-point scale. The chart shows some of the survey ratings received by Judge Gandbhir. Complete survey ratings are available at [www.ajc.state.ak.us](http://www.ajc.state.ak.us).

**Professional activities:** The Council’s review of Judge Gandbhir’s professional activities showed significant contributions to the administration of justice and her community. Judge Gandbhir made contributions in the areas of committee and work group service, teaching, and community outreach. A detailed list of Judge Gandbhir’s professional and community activities is posted at [www.ajc.state.ak.us](http://www.ajc.state.ak.us).

**Other performance indicators:** The Council reviewed other performance indicators for Judge Gandbhir, including financial and conflict of interest statements, whether pay was withheld for an untimely decision, how often parties disqualified her from cases, and appellate reversal rates. Judge Gandbhir performed well in these areas.

### Justice System Professionals' Survey Ratings for "Overall" Job Performance for Judge Gandbhir



Rated on a scale from 5 (excellent) to 1 (poor)

\*Judges are rated by different groups depending on caseloads.

Find this judge's full performance evaluation at [www.ajc.state.ak.us](http://www.ajc.state.ak.us)